

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10: (*Cancelled*).

11. (*Currently Amended*): An apparatus for performing an operation inside a vessel of a nuclear reactor ~~that includes a jet pump with an inlet mixer, a nozzle, and a side opening with a tapered surface, the side opening being positioned between the inlet mixer and the nozzle, the~~ apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body having an elongated tubular member sized to be essentially fully inserted into a jet pump of the nuclear reactor, the tubular member having an upper portion that defines a top end of the apparatus body and is attached to a wire for support; sized to be suspended and substantially inserted into the jet pump;

a tool for performing the operation within an interior of the jet pump; and

a weight for imparting gravitational force on the apparatus body, the weight having an upper portion that is coupled to the lower portion of the tubular member;

a guide rod[[,]] attached to an end portion abuttedly connected to the lower portion of the weight, the lower portion of the weight defining the bottom end of the apparatus body, the guide rod having an incline at a fixed, predetermined, non-zero angle relative to a vertical axis of the apparatus body[[,]]and

a tool, communicatively coupled to the top end of the apparatus body, configured to conduct the operation,

wherein, the inclined structure of the guide rod being structured to facilitate facilitates entry of the guide rod into [[the]] a tapered surface of [[the]] an opening of the jet pump side opening,

wherein, after the guide rod is inserted into the side jet pump opening, the apparatus body is lowered via the wire so that ~~both~~, the apparatus body and guide rod are substantially

~~inserted~~ is essentially fully inserted into the jet pump to enable the tool to ~~perform~~ conduct the operation.

12. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

16. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

17. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

18. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

19. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 18 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

20. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

21. – 23. (*Cancelled*).

24. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

25. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

26. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

27. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

28. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 27 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

29. (*Withdrawn*): An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

30. – 32. (*Cancelled*).

33. (*New*): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

bellows comprising an elastic member, the bellows being interposed between the lower portion of the tubular member and the upper portion of the weight.

34. (*New*): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the bellows imparts a biasing force to restore the inclination of the guide rod to the fixed, predetermined, non-zero angle relative to a vertical axis of the apparatus body.